

equipment (CPE), as substantiated by the title of Tessler, "Delivery Of Display Information To The Caller In An Advanced Intelligent Network." The system of Tessler requires a new generation CPE capable of displaying information and display software loaded onto the local central office. The display software includes a CPE display manager 202 and CPE interface 201 (Tessler, Figure 1) to control the format and delivery of the information supplied to the CPE 105 (Tessler, col. 7, lines 28-30). Clearly, the display software is specifically designed for displaying information.

O'Brien teaches a system by which a customer can speak a name and be automatically connected to the telephone number corresponding to that name. O'Brien teaches a training mode to generate a calling list for a specific caller. Each caller is identified by a unique identifier, usually the caller's telephone number (O'Brien, col. 3, lines 24-27). The caller's calling list includes the caller's unique identifier, and a list of entries. Each entry is generated by the caller speaking a recipient's name, an utterance, and the system storing the spoken name as a phoneme string. Along with each phoneme string, a telephone number is associated. In this manner, each entry includes a telephone number and a stored spoken utterance corresponding to the recipient's name. When a caller makes a call, the caller is prompted to speak an intended call recipient's name. The spoken name is then compared to the list of phoneme strings associated with the caller. If the spoken name matches a stored phoneme string, a corresponding telephone number and text string are determined.

It is acknowledged within the Office Action that Tessler does not disclose a text-to-speech converter configured to convert a selected text name into an audible name. However, it is stated within the Office Action that O'Brien discloses this limitation, and that it would have been obvious to modify Tessler with the text to speech converter taught by O'Brien. According to the Office Action, column 9, line 60 of Tessler suggests such a modification since AIN services are capable of providing both display and audible indications to the caller. The Applicants respectfully disagree with this conclusion.

Tessler does not suggest that the delivery of the display information can be via audible means. The Office Action cites column 9, line 60 of Tessler to support the assertion that Tessler suggests audible delivery of the display information. Column 9, lines 59-62 of Tessler states "[t]he capability for AIN services to provide both display and audible indications to the caller can be used by those skilled in the art to implement several services." An "audible indication" is

not the same as audibly presenting the display information. In fact, there is no explicit explanation within Tessler as to the meaning of “audible indication.” However, it is suggested within Tessler that an audible indication is a predefined sound or message, such as an announcement or a tone (Tessler, col. 9, line 56 and lines 8-10).

Within the present application, the claimed limitations include converting the text name of the call recipient to an audible name and audibly playing the audible name. The claimed audible name is most closely analogous to a call recipient’s name displayed on the CPE of Tessler. However, the “audible indications”, as described by Tessler, are not intended to replace the display information, e.g. the displayed call recipient’s name. Instead, the audible indications are used to prompt the caller for a response, e.g. an SCP requested interaction (Tessler, col. 9, lines 54-55). Therefore, the audible indications act to solicit information from the caller. The audible indications do not provide information, e.g. converted display information, to the caller. Within Tessler, information provided to the caller is strictly provided by display means. There is no hint, teaching or suggestion within Tessler to indicate that the audible indication can be an audio message *resulting from the text-to-speech conversion* of a text message.

Further, there is no hint, teaching or suggestion within Tessler to integrate a text-to-speech converter within the CPE display system as suggested in the Office Action. In fact, adding a text-to-speech converter to the CPE display system of Tessler is beyond the scope of Tessler. Tessler very clearly and explicitly teaches a system for **displaying** information. Visual display and text-to-speech conversion are very different technologies. The display system of Tessler is explicitly designed to display information. In addition to the aforementioned new generation CPE including display and the local central office display software including the CPE display manger and the CPE interface software, Tessler teaches a response processor to provide the local central office display software with the information to be displayed and the format (Tessler, col. 4, lines 48-55), and the display software uses a signaling path between the local central office and the CPE to deliver the display information to the caller (Tessler, col. 4, lines 56-58). Tessler does not teach, or even suggest, a mechanism by which the display information is converted to speech and audibly presented to the caller.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to use a text-to-speech converter, as integrated within the CPE display system of Tessler. The Applicants contend that even if such an integration is within the scope of Tessler, which it is not,

such an integration is not obvious. As stated in the present application, there is a need for audibly identifying a call recipient to the caller. Looking at a display screen is often inconvenient and sometimes not possible due to screen limitations, lighting environment of the screen, and/or user eyesight limitations (Specification, Page 2, lines 1-4). Such display screen limitations are the catalyst for the present application. It is acknowledged within the Office Action mailed on May 17, 2002 (Paper number 10) that a text to speech converter is old and notoriously well known in the art. As both display screens and text-to-speech converters have been in use for many years, if integrating a text-to-speech converter within the CPE display system of Tessler were obvious, as suggested within the Office Action, then the suggested integrated CPE display system and text-to-speech converter would have previously been devised.

It is only through hindsight, that is, having knowledge of the Applicants' invention, that led to the combination as suggested within the Office Action. But for this knowledge, the combination as such would not have occurred to the Examiner, as it did not occur to those skilled in the art to make the asserted combination. In other words, the combination proposed within the Office Action is being made only in light of knowledge of the Applicants' disclosure.

Claim 1 teaches an audible confirmation system for allowing a calling party to audibly hear an audible name of a call recipient. The audible confirmation system includes a database configured for storing a plurality of text names wherein each of the plurality of text names is associated with a unique identifier, a control point coupled to the database and configured to retrieve one of the plurality of text names in response to a call initiated by the calling party directed to the unique identifier, and a text to speech converter coupled to the control point and configured to convert the selected one of the plurality of text names into the audible name. As acknowledged within the Office Action, Tessler does not teach the use of a text-to-speech converter. As discussed above, Tessler neither explicitly teaches a system capable of using a text-to speech converter nor implicitly indicates a system capable of functionally integrating a text-to-speech converter within its display system. Further, there is no hint, teaching or suggestion within Tessler to suggest the integration of a text-to-speech converter with the display system as suggested within the Office Action. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Tessler, O'Brien, and their combination and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 2 and 3 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Tessler, O'Brien, and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 2 and 3 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 4 teaches a method of allowing a calling party to audibly identify a call recipient. The method of Claim 4 includes initiating a call from the calling party directed to an identifier belonging to the call recipient, matching the identifier to a text name corresponding to the recipient within a database, retrieving the text name of the recipient from the database, converting the text name of the call recipient to an audible name, and audibly playing the audible name of the call recipient to the calling party prior to connecting the call. As acknowledged within the Office Action, Tessler does not teach the use of a text-to-speech converter. As discussed above, Tessler neither explicitly teaches a system capable of using a text-to-speech converter nor implicitly indicates a system capable of functionally integrating a text-to-speech converter within its display system. Further, there is no hint, teaching or suggestion within Tessler to suggest the integration of a text-to-speech converter with the display system as suggested within the Office Action. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the independent Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of Tessler, O'Brien, and their combination and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 5 and 6 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 4. As discussed above, Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of Tessler, O'Brien, and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 6 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 7-9 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tessler in view of O'Brien and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,625,081 issued to Lotito et al. (hereinafter "Lotito"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Lotito relates to an automated telephone voice service system. Lotito includes a data store to store and retrieve voice messages at individually addressable message baskets, and a control system for selectively coupling the data store to a telephone network. The control system is responsive to different data signals received from the telephone network to associate a particular telephone line to a particular message basket. Once associated, a voice message can be received over the telephone line and stored in the message basket, where the stored voice

message can later be forwarded to another message basket. Lotito does not teach the use of a text-to-speech converter, nor does Lotito teach converting a text name to an audible name.

It is acknowledged within the Office Action that Tessler combined with O'Brien does not disclose the limitation of pre-recording a voice message by the calling party directed toward an identifier belonging to the call recipient. However, it is stated within the Office Action that Lotito discloses the claimed limitation. The Applicants respectfully disagree with this conclusion.

Within the Office Action, it is suggested that Tessler combined with O'Brien is modified to accept a method of pre-recording a voice message by the calling party directed towards an identifier belonging to a call recipient, as taught by Lotito. However, O'Brien teaches that the "identifier" is a spoken utterance by the calling party, whereas Lotito "identifies" a voice message to be delivered by an individually addressable message basket. As O'Brien and Lotito do not perform a similar method of identification, it is not possible to integrate the two methodologies at that level, as proposed. There is no hint, teaching or suggestion within O'Brien to indicate that the step of accepting a user utterance for the purpose of identifying a called telephone number can be bypassed, as would be necessary.

Further, the combination of Tessler and O'Brien is not proper for at least the same reasons as those discussed above related to Claims 1 and 4.

Claim 9 teaches a method of allowing a calling party to audibly identify a call recipient. The method of Claim 9 includes pre-recording a voice message by the calling party directed toward an identifier belonging to the call recipient, matching the identifier to a text name corresponding to the call recipient wherein the identifier and the text name are stored within a database, converting the text name of the call recipient to an audible name, and audibly playing the audible name of the recipient to the calling party. There is no hint, teaching or suggestion within O'Brien to suggest the integration of the voice message delivery system of Lotito with the voice telephone dialing architecture, as suggested within the Office Action. As acknowledged within the Office Action, Tessler does not teach the use of a text-to-speech converter. As discussed above, Tessler neither explicitly teaches a system capable of using a text-to-speech converter nor implicitly indicates a system capable of functionally integrating a text-to-speech converter within its display system. Further, there is no hint, teaching or suggestion within Tessler to suggest the integration of a text-to-speech converter with the display system as

suggested within the Office Action. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the independent Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Tessler, O'Brien, Lotito, and their combination and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 11-14 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 9. As discussed above, Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Tessler, O'Brien, Lotito, and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 11-14 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 7 and 8 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 4. As discussed above, Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of Tessler, O'Brien, and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 7 and 8 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tessler in view of O'Brien combined with Lotito in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,456,700 issued to Malik. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

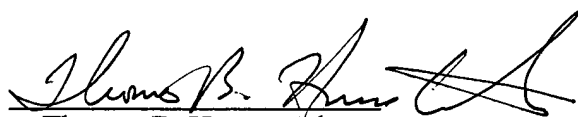
The Examiner relies on no less than four references to support the rejection of Claim 10. Such a multiplicity of references supports the Applicant's assertion of non-obviousness, because even with knowledge of the Applicant's structure, the Examiner has to rely on four references, and pick and choose among the features of those references, to come up with the elements of the claimed invention. But for the knowledge of the Applicant's structure, gleaned from reading the present application, it is not likely that the Examiner or another skilled in the art, would have thought of picking one part from one reference, one part from a second reference, one part from a third reference, and still one more part from a fourth reference. No one skilled in the art, so far as the patents cited by the Examiner are concerned, thought of making this combination, as evidenced from the multiplicity of references that are necessary to make the rejection.

Additionally, Claim 10 is dependent upon the independent Claim 9. As discussed above, Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of O'Brien and Lotito. Accordingly, Claim 10 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 11-2-03

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